

Ruben Burks is currently actively involved in a host of civic, charitable, and youth organizations within his community. In 1997 Mott Community College awarded Ruben with an honorary degree in Community Development in recognition and appreciation for his contributions to the Flint Community. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, Ruben Burks is also the devoted father of 7 children and grandfather of 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, this community, indeed this world, is better because of Ruben Burks. Ruben Burks has been a positive influence on me. I am a better Congressman, a better person because of the example and influence of Ruben Burks.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my constituent and dear friend Ruben Burks for his outstanding contributions to the Flint community and the State of Michigan.

HONORING TERESA FONTENETTE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman with a long and fruitful career in California state government. Teresa Fontenette is set to retire from a remarkable career that has spanned five decades. As her friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate Teresa's, affectionately known as Terri to those who know and love her, illustrious career, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

After completing high school with the inaugural graduating class of St. Francis School for Girls in Sacramento, Terri made her first foray into California state government by serving as a Junior Clerk Typist with the California State Personnel Board. Shortly thereafter, Terri became the Junior Stenographer with the Department of Motor Vehicles and General Services. In 1967, Terri was promoted to Stenographer II at the Department of Health Services.

In 1971, Terri joined the Department of Finance. Through hard work and dedication, Terri became the Secretary to the Personnel Office. During her tenure with the Department of Finance, Terri enjoyed great access to some of the most influential policy makers in California. Terri still fondly recalls sharing her peanuts and candy with several Governors of California during her time in the State Capitol.

Terri's desire to maximize her considerable talents led her to quit state service and enroll at Sacramento City College. Terri's leadership qualities were evident to those as Sacramento City College as she became the President Of the Black Student Union. Terri would eventually receive the prestigious President's Scholarship to attend California State University, Sacramento.

Terri would rejoin the Department of Finance part-time Student Assistant. After graduating with a degree in Social Work/Psychology in 1979, Terri was promoted Administrative Assistant II in 1981.

In the next four years, Terri's outstanding work continued to earn her a number of pro-

motions; as Terri went from being an Associate Governmental Program Analyst to the Assistant Public Information Officer for the Governor's Exempt Program.

In 1985, Terri was asked to be part of the start-up team for the California Lottery. Terri would begin her service to California State Lottery as the Staff Services Manager I and Minority Affairs/Contract Compliance Manager. In the next eighteen years, Terri would serve with great distinction as a valued member of the Senior Staff. Terri offered her considerable knowledge to the Marketing Division as she was the primary liaison to the advertising agency developing African-American consumer marketing strategies.

Terri's outstanding professional accomplishments have rightfully earned her a number of awards in recognition of her excellence. Terri was named the Corporate Individual of the Year by Black Business Listings & Black Expo in 1996. The year after, Terri was appointed to the Corporate Advisory Council by the Asian Business Association. In 2000, Terri was acknowledged by the California Department of General Services for her contributions in furthering small business and disabled veteran business participation in state contracting.

Mr. Speaker, as Terri's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate her great career; I am honored to pay tribute to a dedicated and successful public servant. Terri's career is a true testament to the value of public service. Although her career with the California state government may be over, her commitment to make a positive impact in the community, fortunate for us, is far from over. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Terri Fontenette continued success in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CRYSTAL DOMENECH

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of Crystal Domenech, who was raised in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, in my Congressional District.

At 19, Crystal has done what many people only dream to achieve in a lifetime. Since the age of 13, she has been an active member of the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE)—the oldest Puerto Rican community-based organization in Brooklyn.

Since Sunset Park is a working class, immigrant waterfront neighborhood and the site of many industrial uses, UPROSE's mission of youth and community empowerment seeks to make Sunset Park a better, safer place to live for local residents.

It is young people like Crystal who are truly changing the direction of our communities. She is one of the founding members of UPROSE's Environmental Enforcers, a youth group that has taken on many issues relating to environmental justice.

Crystal's list of accomplishments is long. She has worked tirelessly with me and other elected officials in educating the public on the unfair siting of power plants and other polluting facilities in low-income communities.

Currently, she is working with UPROSE on its Urban Forestry Project and on a community design plan for a public open space greenway along the Sunset Park waterfront. She has caught the attention of politicians, community leaders and the media alike.

Given her energy and commitment, it was easy for me to nominate Crystal as one of just five New York City students to travel to Antarctica for a 14-day expedition with Students on Ice. By embarking on this life-altering journey with her peers from countries all over the world, Crystal traveled from one end of the earth to the other in an effort to gain a new and deeper respect for the environment in which we live.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Crystal Domenech, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize her extraordinary work.

ON THE LIFE OF RADIO PERSONALITY EDDIE GALLAHER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 23, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last November Washington, DC lost one of its trademark voices. Eddie Gallaher, who entertained an entire generation of Washingtonians, passed away on November 26, 2003.

Mr. Gallaher was a radio performer who made his mark on the city during some of our century's most turbulent times. His decades-long career began in 1946 and didn't end until 3 years ago, when Mr. Gallaher was a spry 85. And though he was modest about his popularity, Mr. Gallaher was the man the biggest stars of the day always sat down to chat with when they came to visit the Nation's Capital.

Mr. Gallaher began his radio career at WTOP in Washington in 1946 as the host of the "Magical Moondial" show. In 1947, Mr. Gallaher began his "Sundial" morning program. As radio changed with the times and WTOP switched to an all-news format, Mr. Gallaher moved to WASH-FM and later on, WWDC-AM.

Mr. Speaker, in between spinning popular American standards and providing news updates and color commentary, Mr. Gallaher attracted listeners with his wit and homespun stories of life in Washington. His smooth voice was legendary as was his generous and affable nature. His reputation earned the attention of advertisers, who recruited his name for their on-air promotions.

Mr. Gallaher had a skillful knack for weaving in amusing anecdotes about the entertainment and political worlds that gave his audience a unique insider's perspective. Yet he enjoyed and valued the community feeling of the Washington area, and encouraged civic participation from his listeners. Mr. Gallaher's devotion to his fans was mirrored in his devotion to Fran Sisk, his partner for close to 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, it was a pleasure for many of us—public officials and private citizens alike—to know Mr. Gallaher. Our Nation's Capital and the radio industry has truly lost a grand, old star.